

**Claims**

1. Method for recording an incident, in particular a traffic violation, in which a vehicle is involved, comprising the steps of:

- detecting the incident,
- 5       - making at least one record of the detected incident, and
- searching for and reading from the record a license plate of the vehicle involved in the incident,

10       **characterized in that** during making of the record information is recorded relating to the position of the vehicle, and on the basis of this information a search is made for the license plate in only a part of the record.

2. Method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized in that** the recorded position information comprises the travel  
15       direction of the vehicle.

3. Method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, **characterized in that** the recorded position information comprises the lane in which the vehicle is located.

4. Method as claimed in any of the foregoing  
20       claims, **characterized in that** the incident is detected by emitting a signal and analysing a signal reflected by the vehicle, and a set transmission range is recorded as position information.

5. Method as claimed in any of the claims 1-3,  
25       **characterized in that** the incident is detected by making use of a number of fixed detection elements, and the identity of the detection element detecting the incident is recorded as position information.

6. Method as claimed in any of the foregoing  
30       claims, **characterized in that** during detecting of the incident the distance to the vehicle is measured and recorded

as position information.

7. Method as claimed in claim 2, **characterized in that** the record is a picture record and a search for the license plate is made, on the basis of the recorded travel  
5 direction, only in a left or right-hand half of the record.

8. Method as claimed in any of the claims 3-6, **characterized in that** the record is a picture record and a search for the license plate is made, on the basis of the recorded position information, only in a relatively narrow  
10 vertical strip of the record.

9. Method as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, **characterized in that** a plurality of vehicles are caught in the record, and a search is made, on the basis of the recorded position information, for the license plate of  
15 only one of the vehicles.

10. System for recording an incident, in particular a traffic violation, in which a vehicle is involved, comprising:

- means for detecting the incident,
- 20 - means connected to the detecting means for making at least one record of the detected incident, and
- means for searching for and reading from the record a license plate of the vehicle involved in the incident,

25 **characterized in that** recording means are adapted to record information relating to the position of the vehicle, and the search and read means are adapted to search for the license plate, on the basis of this information, in only a part of the record.

30 11. System as claimed in claim 10, **characterized in that** a plurality of vehicles are caught in the record and the search and read means are adapted to search, on the basis of the recorded position information, for the license plate of

only one of the vehicles.

12. System as claimed in claim 10 or 11,  
**characterized in that** the recording means are adapted to make  
picture records, and the search and read means are adapted to  
5 identify and read the license plate by optical means.

13. System as claimed in claim 12, **characterized in  
that** the search and read means comprise software for optical  
character recognition.